

COPY

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
WAKE COUNTY

IN THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE
SUPERIOR COURT DIVISION
FILE NO.: 11 CVS 3908

THE NORTH CAROLINA STATE BAR,

Petitioner

v.

LAURA G. JOHNSON, Attorney,

Respondent

TEMPORARY RESTRAINING
ORDER

THIS MATTER came on to be heard by the undersigned Judge of Superior Court of Wake County pursuant to Petitioner's Motion for Temporary Restraining Order and Petition for Preliminary Injunction and by consent of the parties. Petitioner, the North Carolina State Bar was represented by Leonor Bailey Hodge. Respondent, Laura G. Johnson was represented by Garris Neil Yarborough. Based upon the evidence presented to the Court and upon the consent of the parties, the Court makes the following:

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. Respondent, Laura G. Johnson ("Johnson"), was licensed to practice law in North Carolina in 1998.
2. Johnson practices law in Fayetteville, North Carolina. The State Bar's membership database shows the following address for Johnson: 1310 Raeford Road, Suite 3, Fayetteville, NC 28305-5085.
3. The State Bar's preliminary investigation indicates that Johnson has mishandled funds that were delivered to her in trust for the benefit of her clients.
4. Johnson desires to cooperate with the State Bar.
5. A need for prompt action exists to ensure that entrusted funds are not mishandled in the future.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. Prompt action, pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. § 84-28(f), is necessary to preserve the status quo while the State Bar continues its analysis of Johnson's trust and operating accounts and to ensure that no client funds are mishandled.
2. Johnson should be enjoined from accepting any further funds from or on behalf of clients or other individuals in a fiduciary capacity, from withdrawing funds

from and/or writing checks against any account in which client or fiduciary funds have been deposited, and from directing any employee or agent over whom Johnson exercises control to withdraw funds from and/or draw a check on any account in which client or fiduciary funds have been deposited, except as expressly authorized by this order.

3. To assist the State Bar's analysis of her trust and operating accounts, Johnson should provide the State Bar with records of all accounts in which client or fiduciary funds have been deposited.

4. Johnson should not be permitted to serve in any fiduciary capacity, including trustee, escrow agent, settlement agent, personal representative, executor or attorney-in-fact until further order of this Court.

THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED:

1. Laura G. Johnson is enjoined from serving in any fiduciary capacity, including trustee, escrow agent, settlement agent, personal representative, executor or attorney-in-fact; receiving any funds from or on behalf of clients or other individuals in a fiduciary capacity; writing checks against or otherwise disbursing or withdrawing funds from any account in which client or fiduciary funds have been deposited; and/or directing or permitting any employee or agent over whom Johnson exercises control to draw a check on or otherwise disburse or withdraw funds from any account in which client or fiduciary funds have been deposited.

2. This matter is scheduled for a hearing on the State Bar's Petition for a Preliminary Injunction on the 21st day of March, 2011 at 10 A.M. in the Wake County Courthouse, Courtroom 10-C in Raleigh, North Carolina.

3. Laura G. Johnson, or any other person having custody or control of her trust account records, immediately produce to the State Bar upon request any of Johnson's bank records for accounts into which any trust or fiduciary funds have been deposited, including but not limited to bank statements, canceled checks, deposit slips, identification of deposited items, client ledger sheets and any other records relating to the receipt and disbursement of client or fiduciary funds.

4. If Johnson does not have possession of the minimum records regarding trust funds required to be maintained pursuant to Rule 1.15-3 of the Rules of Professional Conduct, that she direct the bank(s) where her trust accounts(s) are maintained to copy and transmit any such missing records directly to the State Bar at Johnson's expense.

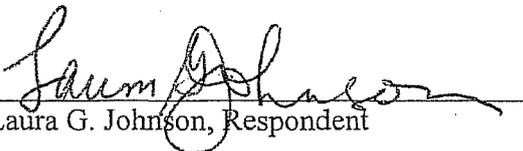
5. That Johnson, or any other person having custody or control over records described herein, produce to the State Bar for inspection and copying all records and documents relating to individuals or entities for whom Johnson has provided legal services, including but not limited to client files, billing statements, memoranda and receipts. Current client files shall be produced within 24 hours of demand by the State Bar and closed client files shall be produced within 3 days of demand by the State Bar.

6. This Temporary Restraining Order shall remain in effect until the 21st day of March, 2011 unless extended by further orders of this Court.

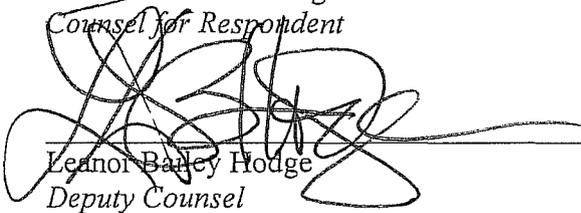
THIS the 10th day of March, 2011 at 10:00 A.M.


Wake County Superior Court Judge

WE CONSENT:


Laura G. Johnson, Respondent


Garris Neil Yarborough
Counsel for Respondent


Leannor Bailey Hodge
Deputy Counsel
The North Carolina State Bar